AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 (cancelled).

13. (new) A method for utilizing layered device drivers in a computer system, the method comprising:

emulating a device by a device driver, the device having a first device name;

binding a layered device driver to the device driver to form a layered device, the layered device having a second device name different than the first device name; and

exporting the layered device under the second device name for use in a layered stack.

- 14. (new) The method of claim 13, wherein the first device name and the second device name are unique to a particular stage of re-layering.
- 15. (new) The method of claim 14, wherein the first device name and the second device name are unique across all stages of re-layering.
- 16. (new) The method of claim 13, wherein the computer system is a computer storage system, and wherein the layered stack is a logical unit input/output stack.
- 17. (new) The method of claim 13, wherein the computer system comprises an operating system and a layered device driver registration system, and wherein the method further comprises:

registering the layered device driver with the operating system; and registering the layered device driver with the layered device driver registration system.





18. (new) The method of claim 17, wherein the layered device driver registration system comprises a driver list and a driver order file, and wherein registering the layered device driver with the layered device driver registration system comprises:

adding the layered device driver to the driver list; and specifying in the driver order file a relative position for the layered device driver within the layered stack.

- 19. (new) The method of claim 18, wherein adding the layered device driver to the driver list comprises adding a first key to a driver file maintained by the layered device driver registration system, said first key including a driver name for the layered device driver and a library name indicating an administrative library for the layered device driver, and wherein specifying the relative position for the layered device driver within the layered stack comprises adding a second key to a driver order file maintained by the layered device driver registration system, said second key including a driver name for the layered device driver and an ordinal value indicating the relative position of the layered device driver within the layered stack.
- 20. (new) The method of claim 13, further comprising:
 inserting the layered device into the layered stack by binding a third device driver to the layered device.
- 21. (new) A device comprising:

 a device driver for emulating a device, the device having a first device name:
- a layered device driver bound to the device to form a layered device, the layered device having a second device name different than the first device name; and

a layered stack including a third device driver bound to the layered device.

- 22. (new) The device of claim 21, wherein the first device name and the second device name are unique to a particular stage of re-layering.
- 23. (new) The device of claim 22, wherein:

the device is associated with a third device name that is unique across all stages of re-layering; and

the layered device is associated with a fourth device name that is different than the third device name and is unique across all stages of re-layering.

- 24. (new) The device of claim 21, wherein the first device name and the second device name are unique across all stages of re-layering.
- 25. (new) The device of claim 21, further comprising an operating system and a layered device driver registration system, wherein the layered device driver is registered with the operating system and with the layered device driver registration system.
- 26. (new) The device of claim 25, wherein the layered device driver registration system comprises a driver list and a driver order file, and wherein the layered device driver is added to the driver list a relative position for the layered device driver within the layered stack is specified in the driver order file.